

8-21-2014

## Daily Eastern News: August 21, 2014

Eastern Illinois University

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**TRADITION WITH A TWIST**  
The yearly back-to-school event of First Night will go on without the pre-show.  
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**THE COUNTDOWN IS ON**  
The Eastern football team is seven days away from its 2014 season opener at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 28 at the TCF Bank Stadium.  
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# THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Thursday, Aug. 21, 2014

“TELL THE TRUTH AND DON’T BE AFRAID”

VOL. 99 | NO. 1



FILE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

**ABOVE:** Eastern students dance at the 2013 Up All Nite.

**LEFT:** Bailey Doty, a freshman accounting major; Makenzie Ward a freshman communications disorders and sciences major; and Courtney Sage, a freshman political science major, pose for a series of photos in a photo booth at Quakin' the Quad hosted in the South Quad on August 18, 2012.

**RIGHT:** Rebecca Williamson, a junior early childhood development major, poses for caricature drawing by David Wodarek during Up All Night at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union on August 17, 2012.

## Panther Card makes change with new bank

**Blake Warman**  
City Editor | @denews

One of the changes Eastern students will see with the start of the fall semester is that U.S. Bank has replaced First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

At the previous bank students were able to use their Panther Card as a debit card to access their bank account via ATMs on campus.

Susan Woodyard, a clerk in the Panther Card and telecommunications office, said students with older Panther Cards will no longer be able to access ATMs. A specific date has not been announced.

U.S. Bank will not have a debit card system like First Mid. Students who currently have accounts with their Panther Cards will not be able to access them through any First Mid ATMs.

Amy Frantti, a corporate public relations representative for U.S. Bank, said the bank has a lot to offer students.

“Our goal is to earn your business now and do such a great job that we are your bank of choice for life,” she said.

Frantti said U.S. Bank’s biggest goal is making financial education a part of the learning experience.

In doing so, U.S. Bank plans to host free financial education sessions for students, faculty and staff throughout the year.

Participants will be informed on topics including saving money, budgeting and establishing credit, and making good financial choices.

This welcome will be attributed through with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. on Sept. 9 in the University Ballroom in the Union.

**Blake Warman can be reached at 581-2812 or brwarman@eiu.edu.**

## The News revamps Web coverage

**Staff Report**

The new school year brings changes for *The Daily Eastern News*, especially with its online and multimedia coverage.

During the summer, the website was updated and changed in order to accommodate the ever-changing world of journalism and news coverage.

Still at the website [dailyeasternnews.com](http://dailyeasternnews.com), the website offers more in the realms of multimedia and constant news updates.

Equipped with a calendar that provides information about what is happening on campus, in the city and with sports, *The News* will always have the most current information available to the Eastern and Charleston community.

The calendar, which is featured on the homepage of the website, will update the community on different productions, programs, games, matches and important dates.

Bob Galuski, the editor-in-chief, said the website is able to constantly update the campus and community with information.

He said the new website will benefit the campus and the readers always looking for more information.

By using the website with the print publication, *The News* will be able to better cover every aspect of the news as it arises, he said.

“We will still be providing the best content possible, but we will be able to report on the news through multiple avenues,” he said.

## May the year be ever in your favor UB provides Hunger Games-themed events

**By Samantha Middendorf**  
Entertainment Editor | @Samantha\_EE

Despite the hustle and bustle of move-in weekend, new and returning students can find time for entertainment and relaxation at events put on by the University Board.

Each year, UB holds the new student mixer, Up All Nite and Quakin' in the Quad to recognize the first weekend that students come back to campus.

Carrie Klaphake, a student life graduate assistant, said UB will kick off the weekend with Welcome to Panther District, the new student mixer.

“We will be hosting a lights-out glow party and Night Storm DJ,” she said.

The event is aimed toward new students, so that they can meet each other.

Welcome to Panther District will take place at 7

p.m. Thursday in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

First-weekend festivities will continue Friday evening at Up All Nite: In the Big Blue Capitol, which will be from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. throughout the Union.

Up All Nite will provide students with multiple entertainment opportunities such as cosmic bowling, an airbrush and caricature artist, an indoor roller rink, and a game show titled “Think Fast.” Students will also have the opportunity to receive free prizes and T-shirts, and will be able to enjoy free refreshments.

UB’s first-weekend events will conclude with Quakin' in the Quad — “The Panther Games: Catching the Blue Blaze.”

Quakin' in the Quad will be from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday in the South Quad. “This event will have bingo, creation stations, food, giveaways, and

eight inflatables including a mobile zip-line,” Klaphake said.

Other activities at Quakin' in the Quad include a wrecking ball, bungee run, airbots, joust and bouncy boxing.

UB begins to brainstorm ideas for first-weekend events nearly a year in advance to ensure that students will have a good time and to create a good representation of Eastern’s campus.


“Every year, we do our best to bring in new themes, events and activities,” Klaphake said. “Planning in this format, we are able to tailor our planning to what new students might enjoy doing and provide them a space to have fun and meet new people.”

**Samantha Middendorf can be reached at 581-2812 or semiddendorf@eiu.edu.**




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FRIDAY



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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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The Daily Eastern News  
1802 Buzzard Hall  
Eastern Illinois University  
Charleston, IL 61920  
217-581-2812  
217-581-2923 (fax)




**News Staff**  
**Editor-in-Chief**  
Bob Galuski  
[DENeic@gmail.com](mailto:DENeic@gmail.com)  
**Managing Editor**  
Anthony Catezone  
[DENmanaging@gmail.com](mailto:DENmanaging@gmail.com)  
**News Editor**  
Stephanie Markham  
**Associate News Editor**  
Jarad Jarmon  
[DENnewsdesk@gmail.com](mailto:DENnewsdesk@gmail.com)  
**Opinions Editor**  
Robert Downen  
[DENopinions@gmail.com](mailto:DENopinions@gmail.com)  
**Online Editor**  
Katie Smith  
**Online Producer**  
Amanda Wilkinson  
**Photo Editor**  
Chynna Miller  
[DENphotodesk@gmail.com](mailto:DENphotodesk@gmail.com)  
**Assistant Photo Editor**  
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*The Daily Eastern News* is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published daily Monday through Friday, in Charleston, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and twice weekly during the summer term except during university vacations or examinations. One copy per day is free to students and faculty. Additional copies can be obtained for 50 cents each in the Student Publications Office in Buzzard Hall. *The Daily Eastern News* is a subscriber to McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.

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Contact any of the above staff members if you believe your information is relevant.

**Corrections**  
*The Daily Eastern News* is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds, or is made aware of by its readers, will be corrected as promptly as possible. Please report any factual error you find to Editor-in-Chief Dominic Renzetti at 581-2812.

**Employment**  
If you would like to work for *The Daily Eastern News* as a reporter, photographer, columnist, cartoonist, copy editor, designer or videographer, please visit at the newsroom at 1802 Buzzard Hall.

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Gateway Program gains helping hand

Roberto Hodge  
Multicultural Editor | [@bertohodge](https://twitter.com/bertohodge)

Amid the heat and humidity, members of organizations set aside their phones and free time to help the students in Eastern's Gateway Program move into their respective residence halls on Tuesday morning.

Gateway is a program designed to allow students into Eastern who do not meet the required level of admission.

This is the first time the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People hosted the event, officially called "NAACP presents Gateway Program Early Move-In Day."

Corinthian Bethel, the NAACP president, said move in was a success and a great way to encourage the students moving in to build relationships and get acquainted with some of the organizations on campus.

Bethel said about 10 members from each of the participating organizations assisted in helping the students move in. Organizations such as TRiO, Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, Minority Student Health and many others were present.

Throughout their busy morning, students from the various organizations were lifting boxes and pushing carts, piled high with items, in and out of residence halls.

Standing off and away from the chaos of students moving in was Ashley



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Ashley Howard, a senior psychology major and member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, helps students in the Gateway Program move into Taylor Hall on Tuesday.

Howard holding a bright yellow sign welcoming students into Taylor Hall.

Howard, a senior psychology major and member of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, said she had one of the easiest tasks.

"So I'm kind of a move-in GPS — I tell them where to go," Howard said. "I like it because I get to smile a lot."

Orlando Thomas, a senior kinesiology and sports studies major, said one of the reasons the event was getting so much success is because students in

Gateway never have any help moving in, so this is a way of alleviating their move-in-day stress.

*Roberto Hodge can be reached at 581-2812 or [rlhodge@eiu.edu](mailto:rlhodge@eiu.edu).*



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# Eastern tradition to have changes

By **Jarad Jarmon**  
Associate News Editor | @JJarmonReporter

First Night, Eastern’s yearly back-to-school tradition to kick off the new school year, will not include the pre-show, which was part of the performance in previous years.

Student Body President Reggie Thedford said it was removed from the schedule because many people do not come until after the pre-show.

Instead, performances and speeches normally given in the preshow will be interwoven into First Night starting at 8 p.m. Sunday in the South Quad.

Thedford said the Eastern teams showcased in the pre-show will be showcased in the main event.

Also, T-shirts, traditionally given out to any student that attends, will be exclusively given out to students wearing blue.

Thedford said this will hopefully encourage students to show their spirit and pride for the school.

They will also be handing out T-shirts for those who are actively engaging in the activities and chants of the night.

He said he hopes this creates more crowd participation.

This year’s First Night will also be the last for Bill Perry as Eastern President.

Perry will be stepping down as president at the end of the school year in Spring 2015.

He said after several years of participating in the Eastern tradition, this First Night will hold new layers of depth for him.



Students dance in a foam pit at the 2013 First Night. This year’s event will not feature a pre-show. It will take place at 8 p.m. Sunday in the South Quad.

FILE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

“As with many activities this year, there will be an added dimension of enjoyment, knowing that my involvement in the future will be from a very different perspective,” Perry said.

He said, like with past years, he is excited for the Panther Marching Band, which will be performing that night.

“The music from Panther Marching Band—it always gets me excited about the coming year and in anticipation of the football season,” Perry said.

Perry added he does not plan to do anything special this First Night, but just plans to enjoy the evening.

SAVE THE DATE

**What:** First Night  
**Where:** South Quad  
**When:** 8 p.m. Sunday

Eastern’s yearly back-to-school tradition, First Night, sponsored by University Board and Student Government, is free for students.

Performing along with the Panther Marching Band, will be various dance groups including the Panther Cheerleaders, the Pink Panthers,

Rhythm and X-tacy, and Idiotic Jive. Throughout the show, giveaways including beads and light-up necklaces will also be handed out.

Coming back for his third time as the MC of the night, Omar Solomon, an admissions counselor, said he also wants to make sure the crowd is participating and is lively.

Solomon said this tradition is a good send-off for the school year and a good cap to the weekend of events.

He added he wants to make sure the show does not have a dull moment.

*Jarad Jarmon can be reached at 581-2812 or jsjarmon@eiu.edu.*

## Exclusive online content

VISIT **DAILYEASTERNNEWS.COM** FOR MORE FROM EASTERN’S MOVE-IN WEEKEND.

**VIDEO** | Eastern upperclassmen give advice to incoming students on how to survive the first weekend of college.

**PHOTO GALLERY** | Some students had the chance to beat the rush and move in early. Check out a photo gallery of early move-in at [dailyeasternnews.com](http://dailyeasternnews.com).

**CALENDAR** | View an entire calendar of all Prowl events.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Fresh start  
begins with  
new year

While this school year – be it your first year here or your last – provides a clean slate and a new opportunity to make a million more memories, it also takes effort on your part.

Just going to the activities planned by the university in the opening days will not be enough to begin the school year off right. Even though your name is marked on an attendance sheet does not mean you’re taking full advantage of the opportunities offered.

That goes for classes too. No matter what extracurricular activities you’re involved in school should always come first.

Start this year off on the right foot. Don’t make the mistakes of the past. The great thing about heading off to a new school, beginning new classes, is that you get to almost re-invent yourself.

Take this advantage to correct the wrongs you think are in your life and make yourself the best person you can be. This new environment and this new year can be your getaway to being the better person.

Opportunities at Eastern rest right around every corner and do not hesitate to take full advantage and get involved. Don’t just show up to the event — be part of the event.

The first few days of any beginning year are crucial and it is important to not get swept up in the storm of just one thing. Don’t spend every waking moment on one area of college — especially when there are so many to explore.

You stand on the edge of the rest of your life. Where you decide to go, what you decide to do, it all starts here. Whatever has happened in the past is gone and whatever will happen is up to you.

Start this year off right. Make the decision to get involved. Go to an event you’ve never gone to before. Talk to somebody you might not have. Don’t wait until it’s been four years and you’re standing on stage in your blue robes to start becoming the real you.

College will be the best years of your life, if you let it. If not, then you’ll have a degree and no memories to go along with it.

This is the best opportunity you will have to try and become a better version of your self. Don’t squander it. Don’t waste it. Make it count for something or you will have nothing.

The daily editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of *The Daily Eastern News*.

Write a letter to the editor

You have something to say. Knowing this, *The Daily Eastern News* provides a place for you to say it every day.

- Letters to the editor can be submitted at any time on any topic to the Opinions Editor to be published in *The Daily Eastern News*. The DEN’s policy is to run all letters that are not libelous or potentially harmful. Letters to the editor can be brought in with identification to The DEN or sent to DENopinions@gmail.com.



For extended letters and forums for all content visit [dailyeasternnews.com](http://dailyeasternnews.com)

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DRAWN FROM THE EASEL



CHYNNA MILLER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The News will always be here to help

Daunting as it may be to navigate Eastern, especially as a freshman stepping foot into college for the first time, do not panic — there are avenues to help you.

*The Daily Eastern News* will be with you every day of your college career.

As editor-in-chief, I oversee a staff that works endlessly and tirelessly to bring you the most up-to-date news coverage of Eastern and Charleston.

We print five days a week, but update our website at all hours every day of the week.

Run by students who are just like you — we go to class, have social lives, that kind of thing — we will help keep you informed each day of your college career and beyond.

As students who have been where you are now, we understand this will be a bit of a culture shock and change for some.

But rest assured, the one thing that will not change is our commitment to excellence in bringing you the news.

However dedicated we may be, our numbers also limits us. That’s why we need you.



Bob Galuski

Each and every one of you, in fact. Everybody in this community can help.

If anything is happening on or off campus that you believe the public should know, do not hesitate to make us aware.

We’re all in this together and working with us to help provide the most accurate, unbiased news goes a long way in productivity.

But we are not without faults.

As dedicated as we may be, we will make mistakes. We will stumble; we will fall. And we’re hoping for you to help us out when we do.

Let us know what we can improve on —

we are forever changing and adapting as the world of news and news coverage changes.

*The News* works to serve the people on this campus, to act as watchdogs for the people.

And through us, hopefully you will be entirely informed on what is happening in this community.

Our campus newspaper is an institution at Eastern almost 100 years old and it will thrive for another 100 years through the hard work and dedication of the staff to bring the news to the community.

My hope is that by the end of the year, you will have all been affected by our coverage of news and will have a better experience because of it.

This is the start of a brand new school year and the start of a new day for *The News*. We will always be here and always be covering the important issues.

**Bob Galuski is a senior journalism and English major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or [denopinions@gmail.com](mailto:denopinions@gmail.com).**

The ball is in your court, Eastern

At the time of this writing, media rooms across the nation are spitting out stories, each doused in a myriad of differing viewpoints, perspective and opinion. From Ferguson to Fallujah, the past few weeks have been, to say the least, a hotbed for political, economic and social debate, and more importantly, a time for the media to prove itself a forum for public discussion.

While we hardly compare in stature or resources with giant media conglomerates, the staff of *The Daily Eastern News* nonetheless feels it our responsibility to enter that discussion.

With that in mind, we’d like to reach out to Eastern’s students and encourage their participation on this page.

We hope you’ll tell us on what’s on your mind.

We hope your fellow student will respond. We hope that this page can be a forum for legitimate dialogue and debate.

And we hope that forum leaves a lasting impression on your thought process (after all, what’s a college experience without some challenging thoughts?)

We’re not advocating any malicious or spiteful commentary. However, we also understand



Robert Downen

that opinions are fundamental to successful growth.

Journalism asks its participants to strive for objectivism.

We’re telling you now, this page will not necessarily follow such an ideal — the very nature of an “Opinions page” necessitates some subjectivity.

Our main objective is to facilitate discussion — discussion that will serve as informative and promotional of growth. The complexity of today’s social and political arenas demands such an approach.

You might not always agree with us. That’s fine.

We might not always agree with you. That’s fine too.

Compromise will dictate this page to the fullest of our ability, and I assure you that your opinion, should you choose to voice it, will always be met with respect and encouragement.

In that sense, journalism is inherently democratic.

Through this page, I can only accomplish so much without legitimate feedback. For us to be successful, we need to hear what you want, think and feel.

Send us emails. Encourage us when you like the direction we’re going. Tell us when you think we’re wrong. Agree with us, or disagree with us. Call our standpoints flawed, or even idiotic, just so long as you truly believe so, and can provide some thought behind your own views. The success of this page, and the newspaper as a whole, is rooted in such discussion and critique, and by involving yourself in such forums, you only improve the quality of this publication.

Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you.

**Robert Downen is a senior journalism and political science major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or [denopinions@gmail.com](mailto:denopinions@gmail.com).**



# Move-in day commences; students settle

By Roberto Hodge  
Multicultural Editor | @BertoHodge

The start of a new fall semester brings new faces, challenges and possibilities to maximize room space in Eastern's residence halls.

Some upper-class students said their experience living in the residence halls has trained them to best utilize the buildings' space.

Tyler Vollmer, a third-year resident assistant, and senior mathematics major, said the best way to use the given space is to check with a roommate and keep everything organized.

Most of the furniture in the residence halls is stackable, so there are many different ways of setting up each room.

Vollmer explained that when he had a roommate, they decided to split the room in half with one bed on each side of the room with an even amount of furniture on both sides.

Jarvis Buchanan, a second-year desk assistant and junior English major, said one of the best ways to maximize room space is to store things under the bed and use the shelf space provided — rolling clothes is also another good trick to save space.

Buchanan said when it comes to seasonal clothes, saving the fall and winter wardrobe for when it really is appropriate will help free up space.

"Take out the important stuff; nothing else matters," Buchanan said. He added using the space given is crucial so that each student is not invading each other's personal space.

Buchanan mentioned having seen some interesting room styles, one of which is similar to the L-shape but instead of the horizontal bed being against the wall, it is bunked across the other bed horizontally.

"It actually freed up a lot of space — I might do that," Buchanan said.

Erin Kirkpatrick, a sophomore family and consumer sciences major, said un-bunking the beds and placing them on top of dressers is also



CHYNNA MILLER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Taylor Coffman, a senior history major, uses hangers, shoe boxes and shelf space to organize her McKinney Hall living area. Campus-wide move-in day is Thursday Aug. 21.

a great way to save space.

Kirkpatrick shared the same views as Buchanan on how to maximize space.

"Don't over-clutter yourself, and know what's most important," Kirkpatrick said.

She said her advice for those with fridges in their rooms would be to only buy what will be eaten and not to purchase food that needs to be cooked unless there is a kitchenette on the floor.

"Buy what you need, not what you want," she said.

One student who has lived in Pemberton Hall multiple times set her room up in the L-shape and she has kept that design from previous years, making slight alterations.

Claire Doiron, a junior elementary education major, said this year she and her roommate decided to place their fridge on top of a dresser so

to create more floor space.

"It's easier to move your room around if your stuff is not in it yet and you can play around with the furniture," Doiron said.

Roberto Hodge can be reached at 581-2812 or [rhodge@eiu.edu](mailto:rhodge@eiu.edu).



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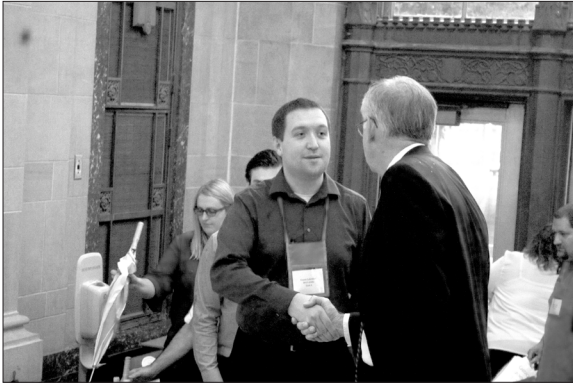
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PHOTOS BY CHYNNA MILLER| DAILY EASTERN NEWS  
President Bill Perry speaks with the new faculty members during the New Faculty Tour Wednesday in Booth Library.



Grant Lakeland, a new professor in the math department, meets with President Bill Perry during the New Faculty Tour Wednesday in Booth Library.



Timothy Renner, a new music professor, shakes hands with President Bill Perry during the New Faculty Tour Wednesday in Booth Library.

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# Women's soccer team opens 2014 season

**By Dominic Renzetti**  
Assistant Sports Editor | @domrenzetti

The Eastern women's soccer team starts its season this weekend with a pair of non-conference matches. The first, on Friday in Highland Heights, Ky., against an opponent its never faced before in Northern Kentucky, and the second, on Sunday at Lakeside Field against Indiana State, a team Eastern has struggled against in recent years.

Northern Kentucky hosts Eastern for the two teams' first ever meeting at 6 p.m. Friday at the NKU Soccer Stadium.

Eastern is the first of two Ohio Valley Conference opponents to play the Norse that weekend, with Morehead State also coming in on Sunday.

The Norse finished 6-10-2 last season and failed to make the Atlantic Sun tournament.

The Panthers finished 6-14-0 in 2014, losing in the first round of the OVC tournament to Southern Illinois-Edwardsville.

Jason Cherry, now entering his second year as Eastern's head coach, said he expects Northern Kentucky to be a very athletic team.

"I know they're going to be an athletic team that's going to go at you," he said. "They're going to work hard. Their athleticism is really good. They've had some good matches with some other coaches I know."

The Panthers are returning leading scorer Meagan Radloff, who scored seven goals in 2013, as well as assist leader Madison Carter.

The Norse is also returning their leading scorer, junior Casey McMillian.

The Grand Valley State transfer had five goals and four assists last year.

Cherry said smart play is the key to winning against Northern Kentucky.

"We're going to have to go there

and play smart, play intelligent, and if we do that, and work together, it's going to be a very competitive game," he said. "They're very well coached and I have a lot of respect for them. I'm looking forward to it."

For Sunday's 1 p.m. home opener, the Panthers are taking on Indiana State, a team they have not beat since 2007.

"The last three or four years, they've had our number," Cherry said.

The two teams' most recent meeting in 2012 was decided in the 87th minute with a goal from Indiana State's Sydney Lovelace to seal the 1-0 victory.

The loss left a bad taste in the mouth of the Panthers and Cherry said he knows the seniors are eager for a rematch.

"I know the girls are looking forward to it because of the history," he said. "I know the seniors really want to beat them before they go out."

Cherry gave credit to Indiana State head coach Erika True for stretching out the Panthers in their last match and capitalizing on the opportunity, but he insists it's no longer the same Eastern team.

"We're a different team," he said. "We play differently now."

The Panthers will certainly look different on Sunday.

Junior goalkeeper Cortney Jerzy is out for the year after suffering another concussion, leaving it between junior Emily Hinton and red-shirt sophomore Kylie Morgan.

Jerzy started 14 matches for the Panthers last season, but was not cleared by team trainers to play in the 2014 season.

Morgan, who gave up 10 goals in five games in 2013, also struggled with a lingering hand injury throughout last season, but Cherry said she is good to go for this year.

Hinton started three games for the Panthers last season, giving up

nine goals. Cherry has yet to name a starter for this weekend.

Morgan and Hinton split time in the team's preseason exhibition game against Loyola, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

Indiana State, which was picked to finish second in the Missouri Valley Conference preseason poll, lost its 2013 leading scorer, freshman standout Abby Reed, who transferred to DePaul.

Reed had 10 goals and 22 points for the Sycamores last season.

*Dominic Renzetti can be reached at 581-2812 or dcrenzetti@eiu.edu.*



FILE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Red-shirt sophomore forward Chris Reed sends the ball up the pitch in a game on Nov. 3 at Lakeside Field. The Panthers lost to the Cougars 2-1.

## » FOOTBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Aside from making the defensive line better, Dameron also faces the challenge of replacing three starters from last season's secondary.

The first-year head coach has another first timer on his staff, as Kane Wommack will be the defensive coordinator after being a graduate assistant at Ole Miss.

The season starts with a trip to the University of Minnesota of the Big Ten Conference that starts at 6:30

p.m. Aug. 28 at TCF Bank Stadium.

Eastern plays against two FBS opponents this season, with Ohio being the second on Sept. 27.

The Panthers were 1-1 against FBS teams last year, beating San Diego State 40-19 in the season opener and losing to Northern Illinois 43-39 on Sept. 21 in DeKalb.

*Aldo Soto can be reached at 581-2812 or asoto2@eiu.edu.*



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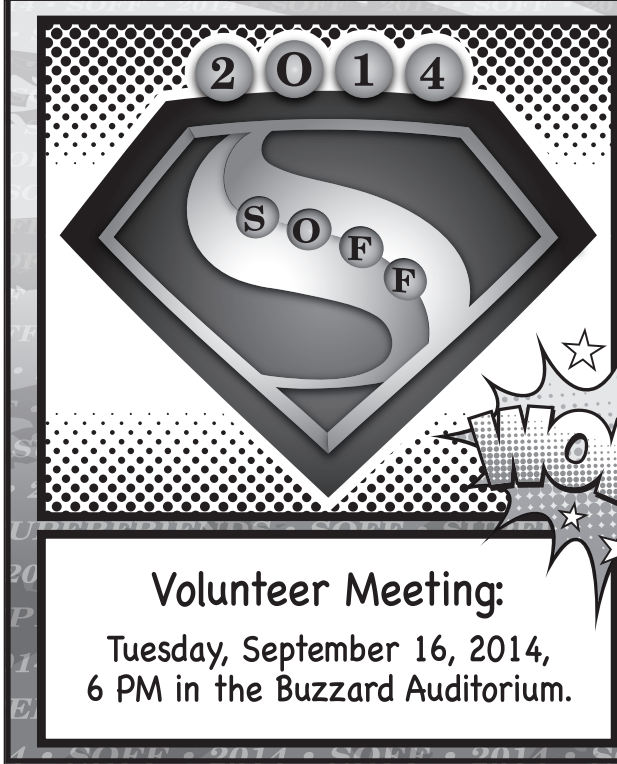
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# Eastern football begins with fresh start

By Aldo Soto  
Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

The Eastern football team is coming out of its best season in more than 20 years, but after a 12-2 record, a second consecutive OVC title, and an appearance in the FCS quarterfinals, the Panthers enter 2014 with a few unanswered questions.

## New head coach

Dino Babers was in and out of Eastern just as fast as his offense drove down fields last season, making the jump to Bowling Green after two seasons coaching the Panthers. Babers' move to the FBS opened the door for first-time head coach Kim Dameron, who previously served as defensive coordinator at Louisiana Tech. The rookie head coach makes his return to the OVC for the first time since 2000 when he was Eastern's defensive coordinator under Bob Spoo. Dameron's first OVC appearance was in 2005 when Murray State had the third-ranked defense in the FCS with

Dameron as the defensive coordinator.

Along with a new head coach roaming the sidelines at O'Brien Field, Eastern will also have a new quarterback under center. As Jimmy Garoppo learns behind Tom Brady at Patriots' camp,



KIM DAMERON

the Panthers have a quarterback battle on their hands to find the replacement of last year's Walter Payton Award winner.

As spring practices intensified in April, red-shirt senior Andrew Manley emerged as the team's starting quarterback. His prior experience at New Mexico State coupled with the ability to avoid turnovers put the Hawaiian native ahead of the rest.

Though, at the end of the spring Dameron was still adamant that the competition was not over.

## QB battle

In late April, rumors started to whirl around the twittersphere about former Missouri wide receiver Dorial Green-Beckham possibly joining Eastern. During the same time, Kentucky quarterback Jalen Whitlow was also reportedly on his way to Charleston.

Green-Beckham ended up at Oklahoma, but Whitlow indeed transferred to Eastern, where Dameron said he would have a chance to compete for the starting job.

A week away from the season-opener at Minnesota, the starting quarterback is still unknown. Dameron has not given any hints as to which way he is leaning.

If new offensive coordinator Greg Stevens' system is any indication, though, the answer may very well be Whitlow. Stevens has the tough task of following the program's best offensive production in history, but has the credentials at his former school to back up his philosophy.

In 2013, Southeastern Louisiana also made it to the FCS quarterfinals, behind its No. 12 scoring offense (38.4 PPG) with Stevens as the offensive coordinator. He had quarterback Bryan Bennett, who passed for 3,165 yards and also rushed for 1,046



FILE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Shepard Little, a red-shirt junior running back, runs the ball past a Southeast Missouri defensive player during last year's Homecoming game at O'Brien Field. Little ran for a game-high 129 yards in the Panthers' 55-33 win. Eastern plays the Redhawks on Oct. 18 in Cape Girardeau, Mo., this season.

more, throwing 21 touchdowns and rushing for 16 last season.

Whitlow joins the Panthers, bringing a dual-threat set of skills at the quarterback position, as he passed for 1,834 yards and eight touchdowns, and ran for 663 yards, scoring nine rushing touchdowns at Kentucky.

Manley had two rushing touchdowns during his final season at New Mexico State, but he ended 2012 with negative rushing yards. However, Manley did throw 18 touchdowns and 2,764 yards, which rank seventh and sixth, respectively, all-time in single-season records at New Mexico State.

Manley did not blink an eye once Whitlow officially transferred in May, welcoming the former Kentucky quarterback.

"More competition is better for everyone – all it does is makes everyone a better player," Manley said. "I believe in competition with the best to be the best and I'm ready for him to push me as much as I'm going to push him."

Dameron said the new Panthers' offense would have a more balanced look to it, using the run more to control the clock during games, a vastly different approach than Babers, who always seemed to have one foot on the gas pedal last year, while his other foot was on the opposition's throat racking up blow out wins after blow out wins.

Garoppo is not the only offensive threat missing from this year's roster, as Erik Lora has also moved on to the NFL, trying to win a roster spot with the Minnesota Vikings. It's not all doom and gloom for the Eastern offense, though. Manley and Whitlow both have prior starting experience.

## Returning weapons

The program's most accomplished receiver is no longer there, but red-shirt senior Adam Drake took a big leap forward last year, accumulating 81 catches for 1,240 yards and 13 touchdowns.

Joining Drake in the receiver pool is Jeff LePak, who in his first full year starting, caught 46 passes for 656 yards and scored seven touchdowns. At

## PLAYER TO WATCH | # 21 SHEPARD LITTLE, RUNNING BACK

Red-shirt junior running back Shepard Little spent his first two seasons watching from the sidelines.



SHEPARD LITTLE

After being red-shirted as a freshman, Little spent the 2012 season as a member of the scout team. In his first collegiate game, the 5-foot-10 running back had a modest 10 carries, splitting time with Taylor Duncan. Little rushed for 62 yards, but less than two minutes into the fourth quarter he put the game away with a

60-yard punt return touchdown against San Diego State, leading to a 40-19 Eastern win on Aug. 31, 2013.

The success continued for the Schaumburg native and the big plays also followed. In the Panthers' home opener against in-state rival Illinois State, Little had seven carries, but made them count.

Already leading by 27 points in the third quarter, Eastern added to its lead with a 73-yard touchdown run from the elusive running back.

After spending most of last season splitting carries with Duncan, Little took advantage of his opportunity to start after his running mate went down with an injury. Little established himself as a premiere back in the Ohio Valley Conference, leading the league with 110.6 rushing yards

per game.

Little's 1,551 rushing yards in his first year playing in college ranked No. 7 in the FCS and was first in the OVC. He scored 15 rushing touchdowns and added two more receiving touchdowns.

New offensive coordinator Greg Stevens comes in from Southeastern Louisiana, with a balanced playbook that has more running than what Dino Babers implemented the previous two years with the Panthers. The running back has caught the eye of analysts across the country, as Sports Network named him to the third team preseason All-American at running back. Little also earned a preseason All-OVC at running back and return specialist honor and was named to the College Football Performance Awards preseason watch list for running back.

6-foot-6, LePak provides a huge target for the quarterback. He is also a red-shirt senior.

The big playmaker coming back out of the receivers is junior Keiondre Gober, who in two seasons has averaged 19.7 yards per catch. In 10 games last year, he had 45 receptions, 870 yards and nine touchdowns. Gober is by far the fastest weapon for the Panthers.

And then there is red-shirt junior running back Shepard Little, who rushed for 1,551 yards and scored 15 touchdowns through the ground. He also added 17 catches with two receiving touchdowns and another two punt return touchdowns.

Red-shirt seniors Taylor Duncan and Jimmy Lera provide depth at the running back position.

Dameron comes into Eastern with a defensive background and is looking to make some changes, especially after Terrance West's record-breaking night against the Panthers' defense in last year's FCS playoffs.



## FAST FACTS ABOUT THE MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS

Eastern will kick off its 2014 season against the University of Minnesota at 6 p.m. on Aug. 28 at TCF Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, Minn. The game will be broadcast on Big Ten Network.

- Minnesota finished the 2013 season with a record of 8-5 overall and 4-4 in the Big Ten Conference.
- Senior running back David Cobb was the Golden Gophers' leading rusher in 2013 with 1,202 yards.
- Since 2011, four different quarterbacks have started for Minnesota (Marqueis Gray, Max Shortell, Philip Nelson, and Mitch Leidner).
- Minnesota has only won eight or more games one other time since 1968.